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ABSTRACT

A program was conducted to integrate computer technology into agriculture classrooms in 25 secondary schools and 4 universities in Arkansas. State-of-the-art technology from the AgriData Network of Milwaukee was used. The AgriData Network includes the Ag Ed Network, which offers more than 800 "live textbook" lessons with current information designed to teach vocational agriculture students and farmers business, management, and marketing skills. Schools provided the hardware, modems, and communications software, and the project paid yearly membership fees and online costs of the ArgiData Network. Teachers were trained in a 2-day inservice training session conducted by AgriData. Site visits were made to all schools to offer support and technical assistance. Most teachers participating in the program reported that it was very helpful, especially the Ag Ed Network service. At the end of the project, teachers commented that students had learned a new mode of computer communications, they had realized the extensiveness of agriculture, and many had become very interested in marketing. However, the teachers thought the cost was too high to be used effectively in a classroom situation, and most did not continue to use it after the project ended, often because not enough computers were available and it was too difficult to log on and off the network. (Questionnaires, evaluation forms, and news articles are included in the report appendix.) (KC)

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FINAL REPORT

INTEGRATING A MICROCOMPUTER FOR AGRICULTURE DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURE CLASSROOM

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Conducted by

Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative
Strawberry, Arkansas
Donna Harris, Project Director

In Cooperation with
Vocational and Technical Education Division
Arkansas Department of Education
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Funded under the Provisions of
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June 15, 1991

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INTEGRATING A MICROCOMPUTER FOR AGRICULTURE DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURE CLASSROOM

Introduction

The purpose of the program improvement project was to integrate computer technology into agriculture classrooms at identified sites throughout Arkansas. The goals of the project were to use state-of-the-art technology available through the AgriData Network out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Part of the AgriData Network, the Ag Ed Network is used as a "live textbook" in many secondary vocational agriculture departments. When the project was initiated in Arkansas, some thirty states were participating in the network.

As stated in the proposal's statement of need, technological advancements have permeated the entire agriculture industry during the past decade--agriculture education is certainly no exception. Production decisions, commodity market information, and supplemental curriculum material can be enhanced and improved by the technological advancements in computer science.

There are over 800 curriculum lessons on the Ag Ed Network which can be used to upgrade agriculture training programs. Also the Ag Ed Network gives the opportunity for improvement in the linkage between agriculture education and industry. Market reports, futures, trading information and research information have helped bridge the gap between agriculture and industry.

The benefit to the agriculture education teachers is that they would receive up-to-the-minute agriculture news, marketing

and weather information, grain and livestock prices, and guidance on where more information may be obtained. Using the Ag Ed Network as a "live textbook" would make the agriculture curriculum more relevant and incorporate learning experiences that would be more timely.

Through the project, yearly membership fees and on-line costs were funded. Schools provided the hardware, modem, and communications software.

Objectives

The main purpose of the project was to improve the secondary vocational agriculture education program through the incorporation of the computerized AgriData Network into the classroom.

The objectives of the program improvement project were:

1) to strengthen and enhance the curriculum in agriculture education;

2) to provide students with current agriculture information;

3) to provide professional development for agriculture educators at both the preservice and inservice levels;

4) to develop and improve linkages between industry, education, and business.

By utilizing the telecommunications capabilities, the local departments would be able to share information with each other and with other agencies on both state and national levels.

Procedures

The first phase of the project was to identify twenty-five secondary agriculture departments to participate in the program. Applications were submitted from interested teachers and selection was based on the following criteria: (Application in appendix.)

1) Interest of the school in participation by both the teacher and administrator;

2) Commitment by the school for material support;

3) Teacher's background and experience in working with computer and leadership qualities that would facilitate passing experience along to other teachers;

4) Availability of hardware;

5) Professional interest of the teacher; and

6) Willingness to train other teachers.

In July, 1988, twenty-five teachers along with faculty representatives from four teacher-training institutions, state department and co-op personnel participated in a two-day inservice training session conducted by AgriData at the Arkansas Department of Computer Services. Mary Beth Inman and Mary DeGroot from AgriData Resources, Inc., conducted the training session. (See attached evaluation in appendix). The training was to prepare the teachers for their participation in the project. At the college level, the Ag Ed Network was to be used as part of the teacher training program to introduce future agriculture teachers to the Network.

After implementation of the system in the classroom the first year, several teachers inserviced other area teachers about the Network. Also demonstrations for the general public, parent-teacher conferences, and PTA Open Houses were held.

In April, 1989, a follow-up inservice workshop was conducted for the teachers. Bruce Herz, former vice-president for the Ag Ed Network, conducted the two-day follow-up training session.

On-site visits were made to all schools to offer support and technical assistance during the course of the project.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the project was based on the criteria set forth in the objectives and activities. (See attached evaluation instrument.) Periodic evaluations have been submitted to the state department every six months since the beginning of the project. This final report is based on the information submitted by the school districts.

INTEGRATING A MICROCOMPUTER FOR AGRICULTURE DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURE CLASSROOM

Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative
July 1988 to June 1991

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation
1. To strengthen and enhance the curriculum in agriculture education	A. Used the system for the special commodity marketing projects that some of the departments were involved this past year. Retrieved information on futures prices, options, up-to-date farm news, and weather reports.	Under this objective, 13% of the agriculture teachers evaluated the system as excellent in strengthening and enhancing the agriculture curriculum, whereas 47% evaluated it as good and 40% rated it fair.
	B. Retrieved curriculum lessons to supplement classes in all areas. The system was used as a "live textbook" to supplement out-dated book material. Example: Farm economics was taught using the Census Data, the used equipment section and factors affecting public auction prices.	Green Forest High School Agriculture Department evaluated it as an excellent tool for instruction. This department won first place in the state in the Simulated Commodity Marketing project.
	C. Pulled off judging contest information.	88% of the teachers responded that the Ag Ed Network service was the most beneficial in the AgriData Network. The next most used service was the AgriScan, used by 25% of the teachers.
	D. Obtained information to figure finishing costs on hogs and cattle; determined price to be paid for feeders to feedlot; information for feed rations; used the forecasting outlook for feed and livestock	The Newark Agriculture Department developed an Agriculture Communications Class using the AgriData System as a database.
	E. Produced a local TV farm report using latest information. (See news article in appendix.)	
	F. Retrieved information for research in preparation for agriculture term papers.	
	G. Pulled off information for handouts and test questions.	

INTEGRATING A MICROCOMPUTER FOR AGRICULTURE DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURE CLASSROOM

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Objectives	Activities	Evaluation
2. To provide students with current agriculture information.	A. Students pulled off current information to do special projects: term papers, marketing projects, Ag-1 discussed daily, production of local TV farm report. B. Retrieved data for student discussion on farm economics using census data, equipment information, and public auction prices.	26½% of the teachers rated the system as excellent in providing students with current agriculture information while 47% evaluated it as good. 26½% rated it as fair. Comments were made that the system would be more effective if there was a computer for each student. One department has the overhead capability to use one computer for large group instruction, but this is the exception and not the rule for departments in Arkansas.
3. To provide professional development for agriculture educators at both the preservice and inservice levels.	A. Teachers participated in a two-day inservice training prior to implementation in August, 1988. B. A follow-up two-day inservice training was provided the following Spring, 1989. C. Four teachers provided inservice for other teachers in their own department. D. Technical assistance and support given to teachers when needed or requested from state staff and Ag Ed staff.	Under this objective, 33% of the teachers commented that the professional development was excellent while 47% rated it as good and 20% rating it as fair. All departments were visited and monitored during the project. The first year of the project was the most successful. Ag Ed provided alot of assistance, provided reports to the project staff as requested. Because of the turnover in staff at the AgriData Network during the last two years of the project, the program has not been received as positive as in the beginning. Some of the teachers had modem, computer, and telephone problems which hindered its usage in the classroom.

INTEGRATING A MICROCOMPUTER FOR AGRICULTURE DATA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTO THE AGRICULTURE CLASSROOM

Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative
July 1988 to June 1991

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation
4. To develop and improve linkages between industry, education, and business.	A. Demonstrations were held at the county fair, PTA Open House, and Parent-Teacher Conference to expose the system to the local community, industry, and business. B. The public was also made aware of it through local newspapers. One teacher remarked that many local people came to see the system "first hand" after reading about it in the newspaper. (See articles in appendix.) C. The Newark School District produced a local TV Farm Report Show using the Network as a key news and information source in the production of the cable TV show. (See article in appendix.) D. An article appeared in the state vocational news journal, In The Works, publicizing the project. (See article in appendix.)	Excellent was rated 27% by the teachers that the system helped to develop and improve linkages between industry, education, and business. 40% rated it good while 40% rated it as fair.

Conclusions and Recommendations

At the end of the project, teachers commented that students had learned a new mode of computer communications, had realized the extensiveness of agriculture, and many students became very interested in marketing.

Although there are many positive benefits by using the AgriData system as a "live textbook", the teachers stated that the cost is too high to be effectively utilized in a classroom situation.

One goal of the project by the end of the third year was to have approximatley 40-50 districts on the Ag Ed Network and to have the teachers trained to utilize it. The original participants were to pick up the full cost of the system after the project ended. This did not happen.

Based on the information received from the teachers, it is not cost effective when problems arise getting on and off line. Sometimes the information would not be available after logging onto the system. Also some teachers have had problems this past year logging on. The system would say "no carrier" and technical assistance provided no positive results.

At the college level, the effectiveness was limited with only one computer. It was utilized in the technology section of the curriculum and future agriculture teachers were exposed to the system and how it works.

Another electronic service being used by several departments in Arkansas is the ACRES satellite system sponsored by the Farm Bureau. Alot of agriculture information is available

for classroom use and is less expensive. Because of the cost, the majority of the teachers will not be using the AgriData system next year.

All of the teachers believe that the the computer is a viable tool for instruction. They also realize that telecommunications via the computer is used extensively in the agricultural industry and exposing this type of technology to students is very important. But most departments only have one computer and exposing students to computer technology is more of a one-on-one teaching situation than a classroom situation.

Questionnaires, evaluation forms, and news articles are included in the appendix.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AgriData Resources, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

King, Don R. and W. Wade Miller, "Computer Technology Resources: Why Use Agri Data?" The Agricultural Education Magazine, December, 1990, Vol. 63, No. 6, p. 5-6.

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Vocational & Technical Education Division
Arkansas Department of Education
J. Barry Ballard, Ed.D., Director

Votech

Three Capitol Mall
Education Building West
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

February 1, 1988

TO: Vo Ag Instructors

FROM: State Staff

SUBJECT: Ag Ed/Agri Data Network

We are planning a project coupling selected vocational agriculture departments throughout Arkansas with the Ag Ed/Agri Data Network.

This will be a 3-year project funded through Program Development and Improvement funds. It is our hope to utilize this project to improve and strengthen the curriculum in Agriculture Business Management.

By integrating this network into the agriculture classroom, the teacher will have access to up to the minute information.

We propose to begin with a few key departments and expand as time and funds permit. The initial participants will be trained in the use of the network. These participants will in turn help train their peers.

The attached information will give you more information about the Ag Ed/Agri Data Network.

If you are interested in participating in this project, complete the attached application and return it to our office by March 1.

88/LG/pb/015

An equal opportunity employer.

Application for:

Integrating a microcomputer network into the AGED classroom

NAME_____AGBLDG PHONE_____

SCHOOL_____SUPT. PHONE_____

In order to participate in this project, certain criteria must be met. You must have the following equipment in your classroom:

telephone
microcomputer with modem (300 or 1200 baud)
printer

Answer the following questions.

Do you have the necessary equipment in place now? _____

If not, will it be in place by June 1, 1988?_____

As a demonstration project, will you be willing to demonstrate the network to your fellow teachers? _____

Will your school support your efforts in this project? _____
(This will involve miscellaneous costs for supplies and expenses above the project allowances.)

Are you currently connected with some type of data base? If so, please identify it. _____

Explain your reasons for participating in this project.

_____ _____
Teacher's Signature Superintendent's Signature

USING AG ED NETWORK IN THE CLASSROOM

AG ED TODAY (AG1)

Ag Ed Today is a news summary that is put on Ag Ed Network every school day to keep teachers and students up-to-date with what is happening in agriculture. This feature is one of the most popular on the network. Its flexibility enables instructors to generate classroom discussion, highlight one or two topics of interest or give an impromptu quiz. Teachers have found that even students who will not read a newspaper enjoy reading news and information that is received from the computer. Ag Ed Today is an easy and effective way to get students interested and excited about the news that impacts on agriculture.

STEPS FOR USING AG ED NETWORK LESSONS IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Select the appropriate lesson(s) from the index for the subject you are teaching or plan to teach.
2. Review the objective of each lesson to be sure it is appropriate for the subject you will teach before accessing the whole lesson.
3. Decide which lesson(s) are best suited for the specific areas you wish to cover and pull off both the student (HS prefix) and teacher (HT prefix) versions.

   For example, you are teaching a section on farm business planning. You have good materials for developing and projecting cash flow but not enough on budgeting. Searching through the index you locate the heading "Making Business Plans" on page 31. Looking at the list of lessons available you decide to access HS45 Making Farm Financial Plans, HS48 Making a Budget and HS51 Determining Breakeven plus the corresponding teacher versions.

   To access these lessons you would log on and enter Ag Ed Network. Then you would simply enter RUN HS45 HT45 (RETURN) to get both the student and teacher versions of the lesson, Making Farm Financial Plans. You would do the same to access the other lessons you selected.
4. Examine the teacher version and follow the suggested steps for preparation noting any AgriScan reports needed to enhance the lesson. Prior to classtime, pull off current AgriScan reports so the lesson becomes a truly "live" teaching and learning experience.

(The lessons from Ag Ed Network can be used alone or incorporated with present materials. Either way, accessing live information from AgriData Network enhances the material being taught.)

A NEW TEACHING TOOL

Ag Ed Network can also help you teach computer skills to your students and assist with independent study. You can access the lessons and/or information and save them to a file on a disk. The student can then go on the computer, pull up that file and do the lesson or work with the information in the file.

Applying AgriData Network to the Classroom

Prices and Advisory Services — AgriData and Ag Ed Networks are especially useful when teaching the complex world of marketing agricultural products. The availability of up-to-date futures and cash prices and market information provides many opportunities for the classroom.

This information is very useful when incorporated into Ag Ed Network lessons. It makes them dynamic and more relevant to the students.

Many teachers have their students "paper trade" commodities of interest to help them develop an understanding of how the markets work and the factors that affect them. They access prices daily to track price movement and check advisory services to help plan strategies.

Developing a marketing plan is extremely important to the success of any producer. Having access to current information, especially advisory services, allows students and teachers to develop a marketing plan, follow it through and analyze its success.

Here are other activities and projects that make use of AgriData Network as a teaching tool.

- Give students a set amount of grain and/or livestock and have them "sell" it over a 3-month period.
- Make students buy or sell a futures or options contract and follow it to see how much they would have made or lost.
- Have students construct a bar chart and then write down the factors(s) that made the market move.
- Assign students to write up a market advisory newsletter for the next week, then see how close they come to being accurate.
- Prepare budgets with the price information on the network.
- Construct a basis chart for different elevators or terminals in your area.
- Using Ag Ed Today and other news items have students write copy for a farm radio program and then read the copy.
- Have students make up a small farm newspaper.

AG ED NETWORK

Introduction to AgriData/Ag Ed Network

Ag Ed Network contains four major areas that make it a complete, easy to use tool for ag education. All schools who become members of Ag Ed Network have complete access to all the information and services of AgriData Network along with those of Ag Ed Network.

The four areas are:

EDUCATION

Ag Ed Network offers over 700 agricultural curriculum lessons with both student and teacher versions in the areas of

- —Farm Business Management
- —Farm Production Planning
- —Marketing Farm Products
- —Information Management
- —New Technology

It also contains FFA News, FFA Information, a teacher idea exchange, software reviews and electronic ordering capabilities from the National FFA Supply Service. The most popular feature of Ag Ed Network is Ag Ed Today, a daily news summary with discussion questions and reference reports for more detailed information. Teachers are finding their students are excited about learning with today's information and Ag Ed Today provides this every school day of the year.

INFORMATION

The AgriScan database offers AP news stories, agricultural news from several sources including Commodity News Service/CNS (Knight-Ridder), The Des Moines Register, USDA and AgriData News Service, the network's own news gathering agency. Available are frequently updated weather reports, reports on cash markets, indexes, foreign agricultural markets, government economic reports and marketing strategy recommendations.

The Used Equipment Service provides complete specifications, approximate retail prices and wholesale prices of most makes and models of tractors from 1965-1985 provided by I & T Technical Publications, a division of Intertec Publishing Corp., which publishes the Farm Tractor and Farm Trade-in Guides.

AgriGuide offers a variety of production agriculture information including information on animal health, genetics, nutrition, management, housing and more.

AgStats provides conservation tillage information from the Conservation Tillage Information Center.

COMMUNICATION

The StarGram electronic mail service allows a user to instantaneously write, edit, file, send letters to and receive letters, messages, memos from other users on the system. Schools can send and receive information from the FFA News Service connected with the National Future Farmers.

Through an exclusive arrangement with MCI, AgriData Network has expanded its communications service to include MCI Mail for Agriculture. Through MCI Mail users may send four-hour, overnight or first-class paper mail from their terminals. International courier, postal letters, telexes and large volume mailings are also part of the ADN/MCI features.

SUPPORT

Complete customer service is available to all users from the moment they join the Network. Features include:

—Ag Ed Network specialists who know agriculture and understand education to ensure that members get maximum use of the system.

—24-hour toll free client service support gives members a human being to talk with 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

—Technical support provides experience in a wide array of computer equipment and telecommunications hook-ups.

—In-servicing is available for all state network participants. Particulars and procedures of Ag Ed Network are reviewed so everyone is comfortable with using the system and with its capabilities in the classroom.

ARKANSAS AG ED NETWORK

Agenda

Tuesday, July 26th and Thurdsay, July 28th

1:00 - 1:30 Registration

1:30 - 2:00 Project Overview
- Purpose and goals
- Participant expectations
- Project logistics and funding overview

2:00 - 4:00 Telecommunications Overview
- Computers
- Modems/software
- Phone line situations
- Basic instructions on configuriry software, general functions of equipment

4:00 - 5:00 Connecting to AgriData
1. Dialing the number
2. Operating at level 0
3. Troubleshooting
4. Moving around the system

6:30 - ? Review (optional)
- Informal use/instructions of system
- Hands-on review of the network

Wednesday, July 27th and Friday, July 29th

8:00 - 8:30 Overview of AgriData Resources
- Corporate Overview
- ADN Overview
  - AgriScan
  - AgStats
  - AgriGuide
  - Product Information Center
  - StarGram
- Ag Ed Network Overview
- Using the Index

8:30 - 9:15 Using Information Services
- Action commands
- Power commands
- Short cuts

9:15 - 9:45 Break

9:45 - 10:15 Information Services
- Practice using commands and short cuts

10:15 - 12:00 System Features
- Holdlists
- Codefiles
- Supportive Menu Searching
- News & AllNews
- News
- Updating

Application of the features
Review

12:00 - 1:15 Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 Communications Services
- Mailbox
- Mailfile
- Outbox
- File
- Service functions short cuts
- Reading Mail
- Commands after you read
- Writing and sending a letter
  - Stargram format
  - Power commands
  - Preparing an offline letter for uploading
  - Cancelling from your outbox
- Address files
- Using StarGram - practice uploading etc.

Wednesday, July 27th and Friday, July 29th (continued)

2:15 - 3:00 Classroom Application
- Lesson planning
- Sharing system with others
- Adult/Young farmer instruction

3:00 - 3:30 Wrap-up
- Review
- Questions and answers
- ADN and project coordinator support
- Evaluation of workshop

AGRI-DATA WORKSHOP
JULY 26-27, 1988

EVALUATION
OVERALL SUMMARY

Please circle the number that reflects your opinion.

1. The overall success of the workshop:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.1

2. Advance information on the workshop:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.1

3. Planning and organization:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.2

4. Meeting facilities:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 3.4

5. Motel arrangements:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.8

6. Instruction from resource people:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.6

7. Please list the highlights of the workshop:
   Fewer machines & people, so instructors can provide additional aid fo: us dumb ones; the way it was taught; Agri data people; getting to work on the computer with someone showing us what to do; enabling me to get started on the right foot; work with computer; skilled technician to work with and very helpful resource people; the whole workshop was a delight; working together as a team of teachers; the team was so pleasant; excellent instructors.

8. Comments or suggestions for improvement or additional training.
   Follow-up type; more advanced information; very helpful; more room; stress early arrival for set-up time to avoid delays; additional help in handling reports such as filing, printing, creating, etc.; just keep up the good work; excellent.

Thank you for your attendance

AGRI-DATA WORKSHOP
JULY 28-29, 1988

EVALUATION

OVERALL SUMMARY

Please circle the number that reflects your opinion.

1. The overall success of the workshop:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.5

2. Advance information on the workshop:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.6

3. Planning and organization:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.2

4. Meeting facilities:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 2.5

5. Motel arrangements:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.4

6. Instruction from resource people:

   excellent 5 4 3 2 1 poor — 4.6

7. Please list the highlights of the workshop:
   Working the machinery; on-hands instruction; lesson plans, lots of practice time; free on-line time; delightful personalities; hands-on experience with the system; learning how to get hook-up with Ag Data; learning how to install modem; excellent personel; very knowledgeable; the girls conducting the workshop really knew about the system and how to make it work with all the different types of computers; instructors.

8. Comments or suggestions for improvement or additional training.
   Use larger room; the two resource people were very good, but need more resources per session; more teacher usable ideas; explain review of system/terminology prior to getting modem communication started; take group through initial step by step commands together; revamp manuals; excellent workshop--need to continue getting more teachers on-line; larger room, more individual instruction; training was great, we just needed more room and the ability to use our printer; do activities that you will be doing the day of class, that is more application; could have been longer; and more room to set up equipment.

Thank you for your attendance

Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative

Post Office Box 100

Strawberry, Arkansas 72469

(501) 528-3395

TO: AgriData Participants

FROM: Donna Harris, Vocational Project Director
Lee Griffith, State Agri Area Supervisor

SUBJECT: AgriData Project

DATE: January 3, 1989

In working with the AgriData Network Project, we need for you to answer the following questions and return them to us. This will help us in determining what kind of inservice to provide with this network.

1. Are you using the system? Yes_____ No_____
   If no, why not?_____

2. Which service do you use the most?
   AgriScan_____
   AgriGuide_____
   Ag Stats_____
   Used Equipment Service_____
   What's New_____
   Product Information Center_____
   Stargram Mail Service_____
   Ag Ed Network Lessons_____
   State Materials_____
   FFA News and Information_____
   Other_____

3. Within that particular service, what type of information are you looking for?_____

4. How are you using the service in your classroom?_____

5. If you need assistance, what area/s of need in terms of inservice do you wish?_____

COMMENTS: This is what I think I need._____

Please express your concerns about the system. We need your input. Based upon this information, an inservice will be planned accordingly. You will be receiving communication thru the Stargram mail service concerning inservice. Please check your mailbox as there will be communication from the Co-op or the State Department.

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Tentative Agenda

April 14, 1989
April 15, 1989

Friday, April 14

9:00 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 12:00	Orientation and Overview of Systems Review Manuals
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00	Classroom Application Lesson Planning & Utilization Sharing System with Others
3:00 - 3:15	Classroom Application (Continued)
7:00 - ?	Question/Answer (Optional)

Saturday, April 15

8:00 - 10:00	Agri Scan Classroom Application Planning & Utilization Sharing System
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 12:00	Agri Scan (Continued)
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - ?	Time Management Wrap -up Evaluation of Workshop Travel

AGRI DATA PROJECT EVALUATION

Spring, 1991

Please circle the appropriate response to the following questions. Comment fully where written remarks are needed.

1. Did the Agri Data Project provide practice of meaningful skills for students? Yes No

2. Did the on-line communications prove to be effective for your classroom situation? Yes No

3. Were the guides provided by Agri Data clear and easy to follow? Yes No

4. Was the information pertinent to your situation? Yes No

5. Did you use the curriculum from other states to supplement your agri classes? Yes No
   Check which state(s) curriculum you used: California_____ Colorado_____
   Montana _____ Wisconsin_____

6. Was the marketing information beneficial to your classes? Yes No

7. Is the system worthwhile for program improvement? Yes No

8. Has your instructional program been more effective because of the use of the network? Yes No

9. Is the computer a viable tool for classroom instruction? Yes No

10. Did you have a problem moving around the system? Yes No

    If yes, what problem or problems did you have?

11. Has inservice training been adequate in applying the system to classroom use? Yes No

12. In your opinion, is the system cost effective? Yes No
    If not, comment.

13. Will you pick up the cost of the service when the project ends? Yes No

14. Which classes did you use in the Agri Data Network in?

    _____, _____, _____

    _____, _____, _____

15. How did you use the curriculum/lessons in your classes? Comment fully.

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

16. How were students involved in using the system such as reports, presentations, TV/radio programs, or projects such as marketing?

17. How effective was the system for classroom instruction? Please comment fully.

_____

_____

_____

18. Which service was the most beneficial for your class situation?

Agriscan Service_____
Ag Ed Network Service_____
Agriguide Production Encyclopedia Service_____
Agstats Agricultural Statistics Service ITIS_____
Used Equipment Price Service_____

19. How was the information applied or utilized in your curriculum?

_____

_____

_____

20. How many students were reached or taught through the Agri Data System?

21. Was the system introduced to adults in the local community? Yes No
If so, how? Adult Class_____ Inservice_____ Other (Specify)_____

22. Did you inservice other teachers on the system? Yes No
If yes, how many?

23. What outstanding or interesting activities resulted from the project?

24. To what degree were the following objectives met?

a. Strengthened and enhanced the curriculum in agriculture
Excellent_____ Good_____ Fair_____

b. Provided students with current agriculture information
Excellent_____ Good_____ Fair_____

c. Provided professional development for agriculture educators at both the preservice and inservice levels: Excellent_____ Good_____ Fair_____

d. Developed and improved linkages between industry, education, and business
Excellent_____ Good_____ Fair_____

25. To what degree was the Stargram service used?

Frequently_____ Occassionally_____ Seldom_____ Never_____

26. Comment fully on how the Agri Data System was used in the college curriculum in working with future agriculture teachers.

Ag Ed Network Moves Into Arkansas

In their first statewide project, education officials in Arkansas will introduce Ag Ed Network to 26 secondary schools and four university agricultural education programs this summer. Two in-services are scheduled for late July in Little Rock.

"In the shortrun, we hope to improve instruction — specifically in the ag business part of our curriculum — in 10 percent of our departments," said **Lee Griffith**, area supervisor for vocational agriculture education, Vocational and Technical Education Division, Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock. Ultimately, over the next three to five years, the department hopes to expand that effort to a greater number of schools statewide.

Educators in Arkansas plan to use Ag Ed Network's current information and lessons to supplement their regular classroom curricula. At the university level, Ag Ed Network will be used as part of the teacher training program to insure that vo ag teachers in the future will be familiar with the network.

"We want more teachers to be familiar with Ag Ed Network so that when they go into the field to schools that don't have it, they can be responsible for instituting it," explained Griffith.

The schools are receiving funding for Ag Ed Network through a joint project of the Arkansas State Department of Education and the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative. The Arkansas project is unique in that it spans a three year period.

The state will fund the schools' yearly subscriptions to Ag Ed Network and provide connect time and report fee monies for the duration of the project.

Education officials decided to implement a three year project because they believe that it takes time to implement new education materials. "If it's worth doing at all, it's worth testing it out for a few years," said Griffith. "Normally, you can't prove anything in one year."

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Northeast Arkansas Educational Co-op at Strawberry Receives Vocational Grant

The Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative at Strawberry has been awarded a $44,792 grant for program improvement in agriculture by the Vocational-Technical Division in Little Rock, according to Donna Harris, Vocational Program Developer.

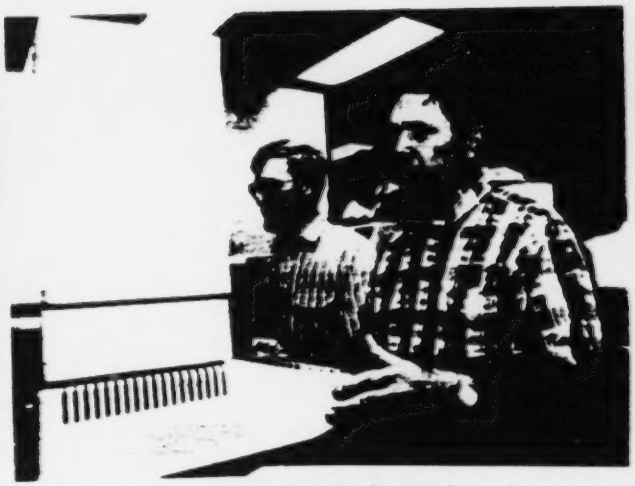
The 'pilot' project, "Integrating a Microcomputer Network for Agriculture Data and Telecommunications into the Agriculture Education Classroom", will be implemented in 25 secondary agriculture departments, 4 teacher training institutions, the State Agriculture Department, and an educational cooperative.

The purpose of the program is to improve secondary vocational agriculture education programs by providing a direct linkage between classrooms and the agriculture industry. Goals to be achieved are 1) to strengthen and enhance the curriculum in agriculture education; 2) to provide students with current information; 3) to provide professional development; and 4) to develop and improve linkages among industry, education, and business.

Schools involved in the project are: DeValls Bluff, Lincoln, Nashville, Stuttgart, Elkins, Bruno-Pyatt, Green Forest, Valley Springs, Springdale, Westfork, Fouke, Sloan-Hendrix, Cave City, Mammoth Spring, Greene Co. Tech, Piggott, Corning, Brookland, Nevark, Cross County, Dewitt, Hamburg, Harrison, Lamar, and Prairie Grove. The State Agriculture Department and the Northeast Arkansas Edcational Cooperative at Strawberrywill also receive training in implemeting and carrying out the program.

Thursday, August 23, 1988

COMPUTER WORKSHOP — Jim Cunningham, a vocational agricultural teacher at Newark High School, recently attended a computer workshop in Little Rock, where he was introduced to agricultural education. The workshop was sponsored by Ag Ed Network, an agricultural education workshop. It was designed to teach business, management and marketing skills. Here, Cunningham works at the computer, along with others attending the workshop.



Larry Burrow, vo ag teacher, Sloan-Hendrix High School, Imboden, attended a computer workshop in Little Rock this month. The workshop was designed to introduce Ag Ed Network to the state's vo ag programs

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CLAY COUNTY COURIER

FARM NEWS

James Ratliff, vo-ag instructor at Corning High School, attended a computer workshop in Little Rock this month. The workshop was designed to instruct Ag Ed Network to state's vo-ag programs.

Ag Ed Network Moves Into Arkansas . . .

In their first statewide project, education officials in Arkansas have introduced Ag Ed Network to 25 secondary schools and four university agricultural education programs this Summer.

Ag Ed Network, America's first online agricultural education network, is available from AgriData Resources, Inc., located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ARI is the market leader in value-added electronic business information and network communciations services for the North American agricultural industry.

Operated jointly with the 400,000-member National FFA organization, Ag Ed Network offers more than 900 "live" lessons with up-to-date information designed to teach vo-ag students and farmers business, management and marketing skills.

Educators in Arkansas plan to use Ag Ed Network's [illegible] and lessons to supplement their regular classroom curricula.

"In the short run, we hope to improve instruction. Specifically in the ag business part of our curriculum we will use 10 percent of our programs as models," said Lee Griffith, area supervisor for vocational agriculture education, Vocational and Technical Education Division, Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock. Ultimately, over the next three to five years, the department hopes to expand that effort to a greater number of schools statewide.

At the university level, Ag Ed Network will be used as part of the teacher training program to insure that vo ag teachers in the future will become familiar with the network.

"We want more teachers to utilize Ag Ed Network. The new [illegible] entering the classroom, having been trained at the preservice level, can institute the network in departments not already on line," Griffith explains.

The schools are receiving funding from Ag Ed Network through a joint project of the Arkansas State Department of Education and the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative. The Arkansas project is unique in that it spans a three-year period.

The state will fund the schools' yearly subscriptions to Ag Ed Network and provide connect time and report fee monies for the duration of the project.

Education officials decided to implement a three-year project because they believe that it takes time to try out new education materials. "If it is worth doing at all, it is worth testing it out for a [illegible]," said Griffith.

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Austin with new computer

Computer system used in agriculture

By Peggy Johnson

The Piggott High School agriculture department is one of 27 schools in Arkansas invited to participate in a project called Agri Data Network. A major component of the program improvement project focuses on computer application for vocational agriculture teachers and students, according to agriculture instructor, Joey Austin.

"The whole concept is amazing to me," Austin said, "but it will keep us updated on every aspect of agriculture."

This project will provide Arkansas an opportunity to participate in a national base for agricultural educational information, Austin said. The source is Ag Ed/Agri Data, located in Wisconsin.

There are literally millions of different bits of information that can be "called up" on the computer. "Things like herd management, farm organizations, all kinds of products, weather information nationwide, veterinarian medicine, animal science, feeding information, livestock markets and last minute market prices, just to name a few," the agri teacher said.

He said also that he believes the computer application will allow the students to view agriculture in a different light. "It will provide a scientific aspect and show students that agri is not just dirt farming, shoeing horses and row cropping. They will see how important agriculture is worldwide."

Austin said the computer network will be "most useful" in his farm management studies and in livestock production and exploratory agri. In all, Austin will be teaching 120 agri students this school semester, he noted.

is being funded through Program Development and Improvement Funds. The Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative in Strawberry is the administrative agency for the project.

The co-op will pay an annual membership fee of $224 per school. The on-line time costs will also be handled by the co-op. Austin explained that the on-line cost is similar to a long distance phone call but that the school will be allowed $300 on-line time the first year, $200 the second year and $100 the third year. The school is responsible for additional costs over the allotted amount.

Austin says it was a "joint effort" that is allowing the Piggott school to participate in the project. He said he and the school administration worked together to obtain the project and that Northeast Arkansas Educational Coop. provided the grants to make it possible.

He said that in five years it's possible the state will mandate that all Arkansas schools have the computer system.

Austin added that, although the school already had a Tandy computer in the agri department, they were required to purchase an internal phone modem to get on line with the national source in Wisconsin.

"It is hard to stay updated with text books," the teacher summarized. "But with this computer we can update in seconds."

Austin said that members of the community who would like to inspect the computer system may stop by the agri building at 12:30

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NORTHEAST

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE - The pilot project, "Integrating a Microcomputer for Agriculture Data and Telecommunications into the Agriculture Education Classroom," has completed the first year of the three-year project. Twenty-five secondary agriculture departments, four teacher training institutions, the State Agriculture Department and the Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative were introduced to the system by the staff of Ag Ed/Agri Data Network from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Participants were trained in the areas of education, information, communication and support using the computer and the telephone from the classroom and office to the database in Wisconsin. The purpose of the project is to improve secondary vocational agriculture education by providing a direct linkage between the classroom and the agriculture industry. This past year teachers were able to obtain lessons to supplement their regular classroom curricula, as well as market reports, futures trading information and research information. At the university level, AG Ed Network was used as part of the teacher training program to introduce future agriculture teachers to the network.

Schools are receiving funding for the network through a joint effort of the Arkansas Department of Education and the Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative at Strawberry. Through the project, yearly membership fees and on-line costs are funded.

AG ED NETWORK®

REVIEW

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Arkansas Teachers Benefit From Ag Ed Network®

High school ag education programs are a valuable component in building a successful career as a farmer or rancher. That's the belief of James Ratliff, ag instructor at Corning High School, Corning, Arkansas, and coordinator of the school's Ag Ed Network program.

"Our students are learning firsthand how important access to current technology and ag news and information is to today's producers," said Ratliff.

At Corning High, ag students use the network to access specific marketing information, up-to-the-minute news and the latest reports on industry developments. It's used in both the animal health-related classes as well as the crop production classes.

"Our students are continually amazed at just how valuable computers and electronic ag services like Ag Ed Network can be to producers and ag professionals," said Ratliff. "They enjoy using the service to keep up with the markets, and they're impressed when they find out about specific ag news events *before* they're printed in the newspaper. Ag Ed Network helps them learn how to apply the skills and information they've acquired to the real world."

Ag Ed Network Goes Live!

Students at Newark High School in Newark, Arkansas, are using Ag Ed Network in an innovative new way — on TV. According to Jim Cunningham, ag education instructor and coordinator of the Ag Ed Network program, the school uses

continued on page 4

Wisconsin To Go Online In February

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will come on the network starting this month. You'll have access to over 80 instructional units contained in *Instruction for Food and Fiber and Natural Resources.*

This collection of instructional units is designed to help you develop, modify and expand your agriculture education curriculum. These units, developed and tested by Wisconsin agriculture educators, expand upon the curriculum model presented in the department's original *Guide to Curriculum Planning in Agriculture Education*.

You can adapt these units to fit your district's unique needs and concerns. In addition, you'll find suggestions for motivational classroom instruction, hands-on laboratory experiences, and supervised experience programs that will inspire and reinforce your students' interest in agriculture.

continued from page 1

the network as a key news and information source in the production of their cable TV farm report. The program is broadcast daily by his agriculture communications class.

"We started producing this program on a daily basis last year," said Cunningham. The program is broadcast to farmers in the Newark, Batesville, Newport and Sulpher Rock areas.

"We've received very positive feedback on the program," he said. "Farmers like the fact that we feature up-to-date commodity prices and ag news developments. Our program helps them keep on top of the latest marketing trends."

Cunningham's students use computers to access daily reports on the network to help prepare each program, including the **Executive News Summary report**. "The Ag Ed Network service helps students bridge the gap between computer science and agriculture. And it gives them a better understanding of just how important it is for today's farmers to be good marketers."

You are connected to the world with Ag Ed Network.

For 24-hour service and support call **1-800-558-9044.**